

News From the

Northwest Indiana RDA Regional Development Authority

FOR RELEASE AT 1:00PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2009

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM HANNA AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



William Hanna, currently City Administrator for the City of Valparaiso for the past three years, will become Executive Director of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) effective April 1, replacing Timothy Sanders who resigned recently to become Associate Vice President for Governmental Relations for Purdue University.

Prior to his current assignment, Hanna was the Economic Development Director for Valparaiso and Vice President of the Valparaiso Economic Development Corporation. He previously served as Information Technology Recruiter and Staffing Process Manager for the Corporate/Strategic Human Resources Group of McKessonHBOC. Earning his B.S. Degree in Organizational Management and Human Resources from Colorado Christian University, he went on to receive his MBA Degree from National-Louis University in Chicago. He completed the Indiana Economic Development Course at Ball State University and is currently working toward his J.D. Degree from Valparaiso University.

His military career in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper from 1995 to 1999 included membership in the Army's Official Presidential Escort and service as the Head Trainer/Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C.

Hanna was chosen from among nearly 300 candidates for the RDA position. Leigh Morris, RDA Chairman, indicated that the selection process had been intense, with many well-qualified candidates seeking the position, but Hanna was determined to be the “best fit” for the organization. “The entire RDA Board was involved in the selection process, spending many hours reviewing information and interviewing candidates,” Morris said. “Bill brings a wealth of experience in planning, economic development and operations. He knows and understands the needs and concerns of local government, and he has great insights into the opportunities our region has to grow and prosper. We believe he will provide outstanding leadership, helping the RDA to fulfill its mission to help northwest Indiana reach its full potential.”

Hanna and his wife, Christian, have three children, Madison, Liam, and Ireland and they reside in Valparaiso.